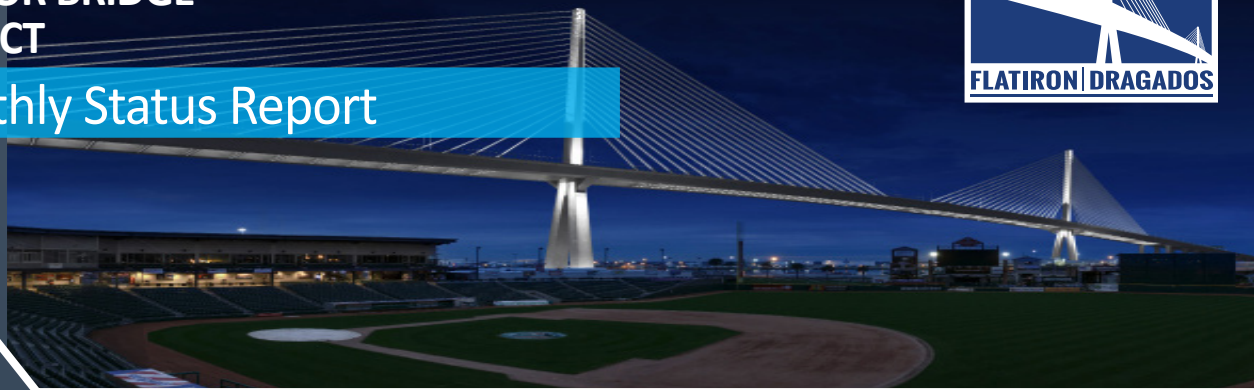


# US 181 HARBOR BRIDGE PROJECT

## Monthly Status Report



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### HARBOR BRIDGE PROJECT: KEY EVENTS TO KICK OFF A NEW YEAR

The **Winter 2026 Issue of ASPIRE Magazine** featured the US 181 Harbor Bridge Project as its signature cover story, highlighting the project's national importance and engineering significance. By showcasing the bridge on the cover, the magazine immediately positions it as a landmark achievement in concrete bridge design, particularly as this edition marks the publication's 20th anniversary.

Inside, the in-depth profile emphasizes several remarkable aspects of the bridge, including its record-setting 1,661-foot precast segmental main span, pioneering use of high-performance concrete, hurricane-resilient structural systems, and its architectural role as a new coastal icon for South Texas. The feature highlights advancements such as twin precast box girders, delta-frame connections, advanced stay-cable systems, and a design service life of 170 years, all exemplifying cutting-edge segmental bridge engineering.

The article also acknowledges the project's aesthetic significance, noting the community-selected theme, dramatic LED lighting design, and its transformative impact on the Corpus Christi skyline. By documenting the engineering, construction, and aesthetic achievements in a national, peer-reviewed industry magazine, the feature elevates TxDOT's New Harbor Bridge as a benchmark project for Departments of Transportation, designers, and contractors across the country. Its inclusion in ASPIRE reinforces the bridge's status as a model of innovation, durability, and coastal resiliency in modern bridge construction. Read more here: [www.aspirebridge.com/magazine/2026Winter/Project-USRoute181HarborBridge.pdf](http://www.aspirebridge.com/magazine/2026Winter/Project-USRoute181HarborBridge.pdf)

**Winter Storm FERN:** Harbor Bridge Project Operations and Maintenance (O&M) crews executed a coordinated, multi day effort to ensure roadway safety across the project corridor. Initially, a team mobilized to begin roadway pretreatment for the first round of brine application. As conditions evolved, crews increased their presence significantly and deployed to conduct a second brine application over the weekend. As the storm arrived, a full patrol force was activated to monitor the project roadways, respond to icing, maintain operational readiness in the event of calls to close ramps and bridges, and support first responders.

To sustain these operations, O&M teams prepared and calibrated brining equipment to ensure proper application rates and adequate supply. Additional personnel were assigned over two consecutive nights to pre-set traffic control devices, providing safe work zones and maintaining driver awareness ahead of deteriorating weather.

In summary, crews treated all critical bridge deck surfaces, covering 17.6 lane miles and applying approximately 1,400 gallons of brine during the event. This coverage included IH 37, US 181, and SH 286 mainlanes, direct connectors and loop ramps, frontage roads, and key intersections. These proactive measures ensured the bridge decks remained as safe as possible during the winter event.

**North Beach Roadworks Milestone:** In January, North Beach area commuters celebrated the long-awaited opening of Burluson Street as a two-way through street beneath the new Harbor Bridge. Improved connectivity also includes new sidewalks at the intersection and along the new two-lane E Causeway Blvd frontage road. Drainage system upgrades ensure the area will remain navigable during tidal and heavy rain events.

**Padre Street Realignment:** As demolition activities progressed, roadwork crews implemented a long-term closure and detour of Padre Street from Belden to Carancahua Street. The closure was necessary to restore and realign connectivity in the area, as the landscape is reconfigured with the removal of the old harbor bridge ramps and embankments.



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